

KENTUCKY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

January 25, 2005
Berry Hill Mansion
Frankfort, Kentucky

Present: Mr. James Baker, Ms. Sharon Bird, Mr. George Burkley, Mr. John Cary, Governor Martha Layne Collins, Mr. William Conder, Deputy Commissioner Andrew Fraenhoffer, Ms. Annette Jones, Senator Vernie McGaha, Mr. Ronald Ramsey, Mr. Nicky Rapier, Mr. Ted Richardson, General James Shane, and Mr. Russell Starkey.

Absent: Mayor Jerry Abramson, Senator Charlie Borders, Representative Larry Clark, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Judge/Executive Bill May, Dr. Michael McCall, Mr. Todd Mills, Mr. Ken Oilschlager, and Ms. Sue Tamme.

A workforce development orientation was provided to new members and an update to continuing members at the introductory meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Elizabeth Hack, the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) Administrative Coordinator, who introduced Commissioner Laura Owens of the Department for Workforce Investment.

In her remarks, Commissioner Owens thanked the KWIB members for their participation and challenged them to coordinate efforts of partners. She expressed excitement about Governor Fletcher's tax reform initiatives and the opportunity they offer for employment and success.

Franklin County Judge/Executive Teresa Barton administered the oath, swearing in seven (7) new board members: Sharon Bird, George Burkley, John Cary, William Conder, Andrew Fraenhoffer, Vernie McGaha, and Russell Starkey. An eighth new member, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, was not present.

Commissioner Owens then introduced Mr. George Burkley, the new Chairperson of the KWIB. A native Kentuckian and University of Kentucky graduate, Mr. Burkley worked in the healthcare industry outside Kentucky for twenty years before returning to Kentucky four years ago. He currently resides in Louisville where he is President and CEO of DEYTA, LLC, a performance assessment organization.

Mr. Burkley then spoke briefly and had each of the board members introduce themselves, mentioning their background and interest in the KWIB.

Bill Sanders, U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Association representative from Washington, D.C., and Dr. Helen Parker, U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Association regional representative from Atlanta, spoke on the role of State Workforce Investment Boards (SWIBs) and their importance in state

government. They challenged KWIB members and other attendees to view economic development and workforce development as partners.

They noted that the business model is changing and that business services offered by economic and workforce development must change as well if they do not wish to become irrelevant. Companies now move to where talent is available. Tax incentives may draw new companies to a location temporarily until another location offers better tax incentives, but the most essential draw must be educated and qualified potential employees. They emphasized the need for business demand driven services and the importance of E³ – economic development, education and employment. Employment services, community colleges, and workforce development must be integrated to achieve success. These multiple systems must be brought together.

Sanders stated that reauthorization, a major emphasis of the President, will be passed.

Parker stated that SWIBs must fill the role of guide to the Governor. The state Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is the Governor's board and must help him define the economic vision for the state by articulating priorities of business communities and economic development. She emphasized that all groups must be at the table: economic development, education, faith-based organizations, and businesses. In response to comments, she stated that the Board must not be reactive, but rather demonstrate initiative, giving direction to the workforce development system.

Sanders emphasized that small businesses play an important role and have significant needs that the Boards must address. Big businesses alone cannot provide for communities.

Parker noted that small business round tables are an effective means for identifying and addressing their needs, suggesting that Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs) could be seen as extensions of the KWIB.

Sanders and Parker informed the audience that the Atlanta regional office has a fifty-member staff to assist the WIB system. This staff is available to preview proposals prior to submission. After a proposal has been submitted, the staff is not allowed to intervene.

New member Sharon Bird noted that while Kentucky will build several new power plants in the near future, initially 80 percent of employees will come from other states because Kentucky does not have adequately trained individuals. Commissioner Owens reported that Governor Fletcher has just approved a multi-million dollar training project.

Sanders emphasized the need for driving the vision of just-in-time-training with the community college system and of developing a pathways process of education, incorporating flexibility and nimbleness; otherwise, other providers will step in.

Following brunch that allowed for board member interaction with each other and with other attendees, Mike Switzer, Workforce Florida's Vice President for Performance and

Programs, shared information about his state's programs and processes. He noted the importance of identifying all participating agencies and partners and the multiple funding streams involved. A set of his notes is available.

Dr. Penny Armstrong, Executive Director of the Office of Employment and Training, then requested board members to ask themselves why they sit on this board, giving her own reason as an opportunity to serve the poor. She reiterated the importance of each individual answering this question.

Susan Craft, Director of the Division of Workforce Services, noted that this Division works closely with businesses through the one-stops as well as through the Rapid Response work. She provided information about the state plan process, noting that initial work had already begun but that the process would be continued under the new federal guidelines that are expected soon.

At the conclusion of the informational sessions, Chairperson George Burkley called the business meeting to order.

A quorum of twelve (12) members was present for the business session even though two members, Mr. Baker and Senator McGaha, had previously left.

Elizabeth Hack presented the draft revisions of the bylaws. Nicky Rapier raised questions about the process for revising the bylaws. Hack responded that this was the initial presentation of changes suggested by staff and that Board members now have the opportunity to review proposed changes and to respond. Any other suggested changes will be incorporated prior to the second reading which will take place at the next KWIB meeting. A vote on the revised bylaws will take place at the third KWIB meeting.

Upon a request from Chair George Burkley, Mr. Cary moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned.